

Library

# Annual Report

**On the Health of the  
Borough of Newport,  
Isle of Wight,  
for the year 1960**

BY

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*Medical Officer of Health.*

**PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION  
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.**

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**Newport, I.W.:**

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## COUNTY HALL

NEWPORT, I.W.

Tel. Newport 2261

*To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1960.

The Birth Rate rose from 12.0 to 14.2 and the Stillbirth Rate also rose from 20.5 to 25.1.

The Infantile Mortality Rate rose from 8.4 to 18.4 but when dealing with such small numbers this is of little significance.

The Death Rate fell further this year to 14.5.

Deaths from all forms of cancer fell from 46 to 44, of which 11 were due to cancer of the lung. Ten of the deaths from lung cancer occurred in males and only one in a female.

Heart disease was certified as the cause of death in 88 cases of which coronary artery disease accounted for a total of 35 deaths (25 males and 10 in females).

Fifty-two deaths were due to strokes, 27 due to pneumonia and 9 due to bronchitis.

There were 3 cases of suicide during the year.

There were no deaths from road accidents.

Thirteen new notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis were received as a result of, and proving the value of, the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit.

Four cases only of measles were notified during the year, and only 2 cases of whooping cough.

No cases of poliomyelitis or food poisoning were notified.

It was not necessary during the year to invoke the powers of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

## **Health Education**

There are certain limits, ill defined though they be, beyond which it would be unwise to proceed in the matter of health education. That medical subjects hold a certain fascination for the general public is clearly shown by the astronomical viewer figures for Emergency Ward 10 and similar programmes but it is more than doubtful if these figures reflect any enormous interest in health education. As

in other fields of mass information the story with an obvious moral is not popular but masked propaganda skilfully wrapped up in an "Emergency" type of programme often sinks into the unconscious and the message is skilfully and painlessly driven home.

### **Cigarette Smoking**

The general public is more than a little bewildered at the material presented to them on this subject. On the one hand the medical profession is warning them of the dire consequences of the habit while the advertising world is spending a fortune on urging them to smoke more.

If the medical evidence is conclusive then cigarette smoking should be regarded as more dangerous than the taking of so-called dangerous drugs.

How do deaths from barbiturate or even morphine addiction compare with the deaths from lung cancer? And it is not lung cancer alone which is believed to be related to cigarette smoking. Far commoner, of course, is the smoker's cough, the chronic bronchitis due to the products of the burning cigarette. These fits of coughing can be very damaging to the heart and even to the blood vessels of the brain.

There is an age limit for the sale of cigarettes to children. This law was introduced when the dangerous effects of smoking were not known.

Now that the cigarette is the target of so much scientific abuse, cigarettes may be bought from a slot machine which presumably even in this electronic age, is not yet capable of estimating the age of the customer.

### **Problem Families**

Even with the social services on hand it is extremely difficult to handle many of these cases. One of the principal causes in the creation of these families is the low mentality of the parents.

In one case the bedrooms of the house were found in an appalling state. The floor was covered with human excreta, urine and vomit. No attempt had been made to clear this up. Dirty sheets and old clothes lay piled in a corner of the room. The air throughout the house was in consequence foul. All attempts to help have proved useless. Gifts of mattresses, clothing and rubber sheets had been ruined and rendered useless within six months.



The state of children reared in these conditions can well be imagined.

As one studies these families the enormous mistake of forcing a pregnant girl to marry the father of her child to save bringing disgrace on the family stands out clearly.

With no bond of affection tensions are created either overt or covert. Even worse may be the growing state of indifference. Flights into alcohol become more or less permanent and conceptions occur during a drunken state with the consequence that in such cases an unwanted child is born each year. The father finds himself unable to keep a job owing to his basic immaturity aggravated by alcohol.

Mother drifts into drudgery and the conditions in the home deteriorate. They are undesirable tenants and slide into poorer and poorer accommodation with progressive overcrowding. The children, who in spite of everything are usually devoted to their parents, may have to be taken into care from time to time, during severe social crises.

## The Aged

The growing problem of the care of old people, especially those living alone, is a major challenge to the social services.

One of the difficulties is locating those in need of help, another is the even greater one of persuading the individual to accept help.

These good people are mostly fiercely independent and resent "interference" even when they are almost on their last legs. Enormous amount of tact and special understanding is needed in dealing with these cases.

It is not possible and indeed it is not wise *to impose* the available services on the aged.

Much improvement can be made by frequent visits of qualified persons who have wide experience with the special problems of the aged. But it is usually best for only one person to visit. Multiple visits from workers in different departments are to be abhorred as unnecessary.

Many of the old persons suffer from anaemia and nutritional disorders because they cannot be bothered to prepare a proper meal, especially for one person.

But this is not always the case. One health visitor was asked by the private general practitioner to call on one of his cases. This was a man of 80 years who was furious at a nurse from "the Health" calling on him. At the time of the visit the "patient" was plucking a chicken to have for his dinner. It was true that he had a heart disorder but he lived in a nice

cottage in a very comfortable state, not too tidy, with a neat garden and a few chickens. He looked after himself, his house and his garden well.

"When I feel a bit funny, I lie down on the bed. Sometimes I lie down a few times a day. But I don't want any help. Don't you come calling here again dear, I don't need you".

### **Environmental Influences—Past and Present**

The earliest activities in public health practise were concentrated on removing damaging influences from the environment. The primary steps were to control water supplies and sewage disposal. However, as the field of vision broadened other noxious influences were recognised and the public health department began to concern itself with related factors such as the houses in which we live and more recently with the air that we breathe.

The control of cholera and other major infectious diseases could be engineered because the lines of attack were made progressively clear; but no simple significant factor is known in the field of the latest, and perhaps the greatest challenge—the causation of mental ill-health.

Some of our knowledge of development in the child points to factors which are believed to have great significance. To deprive an infant of a continuous relationship with the mother or mother figure increases his chance of mental illness in later life. Broadfront, impersonal means of prevention are, however, of no value in this field.

Each infant is an individual personal problem which only individual action can solve.

It remains for me to thank the Mayor and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for their unfailing help and understanding of the various problems which arise.

To Mr. F. K. Aze and his staff, and to Mr. W. G. Clarke, my loyal Secretary at County Hall, my appreciation is again recorded.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1960.

### *Medical Officer of Health—*

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG)., L.R.C.P.  
(LOND.), D.P.H.

### *Senior Public Health Inspector and Meat & Food Inspector—*

F. K. AZE, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

### *Additional Public Health Inspector—*

H. S. BULL, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Area (in acres) ... ..  | 15,530   |
| Population (Registrar General's Figures) ...                      | 19,140   |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1959) per<br>rate books ... .. | 5,426    |
| Rateable Value (as at 1.4.60) ... ..                              | £305,927 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1959-60) ...                     | £1,223   |

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated<br>resident population ... ..  | 14.2 |
| Comparative factor ... ..  | 1.15 |
| Comparative Birth Rate ... ..  | 16.3 |
| Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still<br>births) ... ..        | 25.1 |
| Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated<br>resident population ... .. | 14.5 |
| Comparative factor ... ..  | 0.68 |
| Comparative Death Rate ... ..  | 9.9  |
| Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and<br>still births) ... .. | Nil  |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—                             |      |
| All infants per 1000 live births ...                                     | 18.4 |
| Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate<br>live births ... ..             | 16.3 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate<br>live births ... ..         | 37.0 |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ..                                     | 44   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... ..                                    | Nil  |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...                                | Nil  |

### BIRTHS.

The total number of live births was 272 of which 245 were legitimate and 27 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 14.2 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 17.1.



## DEATHS.

The total number of deaths was 277 which gives a death rate of 14·5 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11·5.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 18·4 per 1000 registered live births ; the rate for England and Wales generally was 21·9.

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

| <i>Cause.</i>                                     | <i>Male.</i> | <i>Female.</i> |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ..                  | —            | —              |
| Tuberculosis, other ... ..                        | —            | —              |
| Syphilitic disease ... ..                         | —            | 1              |
| Diphtheria ... ..                                 | —            | —              |
| Whooping Cough ... ..                             | —            | —              |
| Meningococcal infections ... ..                   | —            | —              |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..                        | —            | —              |
| Measles ... ..                                    | —            | —              |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases            | —            | 1              |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ..                | 3            | 1              |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus                | 10           | 1              |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..                 | —            | 4              |
| Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..                 | —            | —              |
| Other malignant and lymphatic<br>neoplasms ... .. | 14           | 11             |
| Leukaemia, aleukaemia ... ..                      | 1            | 1              |
| Diabetes ... ..                                   | —            | —              |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system                | 21           | 31             |
| Coronary disease, angina ... ..                   | 25           | 10             |
| Hypertension with heart disease ... ..            | —            | 2              |
| Other heart diseases ... ..                       | 24           | 27             |
| Other circulatory diseases ... ..                 | 6            | 5              |
| Influenza ... ..                                  | —            | —              |
| Pneumonia ... ..                                  | 10           | 17             |
| Bronchitis ... ..                                 | 6            | 3              |
| Other diseases of respiratory system              | 1            | 2              |
| Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ..              | 2            | —              |
| Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ..         | —            | 1              |
| Nephritis and nephrosis ... ..                    | —            | —              |
| Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..                    | 1            | —              |
| Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..            | —            | —              |
| Congenital malformations ... ..                   | —            | —              |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases            | 13           | 14             |
| Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..                    | —            | —              |
| All other accidents ... ..                        | 2            | 3              |
| Suicide ... ..                                    | 3            | —              |
| Other violent causes ... ..                       | —            | —              |
| All causes ... ..                                 | 142          | 135            |



**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)**  
DURING THE YEAR 1960.

| Disease                                    | Total Cases<br>Notified | Cases admitted<br>to Hospital | Total<br>Deaths |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Smallpox ... ..                            | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Scarlet Fever ... ..                       | 31                      | 2                             | —               |
| Diphtheria ... ..                          | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Enteric Fever<br>(including Paratyphoid)   | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ...                      | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Pneumonia ... ..                           | 1                       | —                             | 27*             |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum                      | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Other diseases<br>generally notifiable ... | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Erysipelas ... ..                          | 2                       | —                             | —               |
| Polio-Encephalitis ...                     | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Meningococcal Infection                    | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Whooping Cough ...                         | 2                       | —                             | —               |
| Measles ... ..                             | 4                       | —                             | —               |
| Dysentery ... ..                           | 7                       | —                             | —               |
| Malaria ... ..                             | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ...                    | —                       | —                             | —               |
| Food Poisoning ...                         | —                       | —                             | —               |
| TOTALS ... ..                              | 47                      | 2                             | 27              |

\*This figure includes certain cases of pneumonia which are not notifiable.

AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION.

| Age           | Scarlet Fever | Diphtheria | Puerperal<br>Pyrexia | Pneumonia | Erysipelas | Enteric Fever | Food<br>Poisoning | Polio-<br>Encephalitis | Acute<br>Poliomyelitis | Meningococcal<br>Infection | Whooping Cough | Ophthalmia<br>Neonatorum | Measles | Dysentery |
|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Under 1       | —             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 1 and under 2 | 1             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 2 " " 3       | —             | —          | —                    | 1         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 3 " " 4       | 2             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | 1       | —         |
| 4 " " 5       | 2             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 5 " " 10      | 20            | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | 2              | —                        | 2       | 5         |
| 10 " " 15     | 4             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 15 " " 20     | —             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 20 " " 35     | —             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | 1       | 2         |
| 35 " " 45     | 1             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 45 " " 65     | 1             | —          | —                    | —         | 2          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| 65 and over   | —             | —          | —                    | —         | —          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | —              | —                        | —       | —         |
| TOTALS        | 31            | —          | —                    | 1         | 2          | —             | —                 | —                      | —                      | —                          | 2              | —                        | 4       | 7         |

**TUBERCULOSIS, 1960.**

| AGE PERIODS     | NEW CASES |           |    |               |    | DEATHS |           |    |               |    |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----|---------------|----|--------|-----------|----|---------------|----|
|                 | Totals    | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |    | Totals | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |    |
|                 |           | M.        | F. | M.            | F. |        | M.        | F. | M.            | F. |
| 0 and under 1   | —         | —         | —  | —             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 1     ,,     5  | —         | —         | —  | —             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 5     ,,     10 | —         | —         | —  | —             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 10    ,,    15  | 1         | —         | 1  | —             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 15    ,,    20  | 2         | 1         | 1  | —             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 20    ,,    25  | 4         | 2         | 1  | 1             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 25    ,,    35  | —         | —         | —  | —             | —  | —      | —         | —  | —             | —  |
| 35    ,,    45  | 1         | 1         | —  | —             | —  | 2      | —         | 2  | —             | —  |
| 45    ,,    55  | 1         | 1         | —  | —             | —  | 1      | 1         | —  | —             | —  |
| 55    ,,    65  | 3         | 3         | —  | —             | —  | 1      | —         | 1  | —             | —  |
| 65 and over     | 1         | —         | 1  | —             | —  | 4      | 2         | 1  | —             | 1  |
| TOTALS          | 13        | 8         | 4  | 1             | —  | 8      | 3         | 4  | —             | 1  |

In addition to the new cases notified within the Borough 11 pulmonary male and 3 pulmonary female cases transferred from the mainland. Male cases include transfers to H.M. Prison and Borstal Institution.

There were no deaths directly attributable to tuberculosis. The eight patients shown above all died from other causes.

### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |                  |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| Inspections under the Public Health Act     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 327              |
| Miscellaneous Visits                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 175              |
| Drainage                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 212              |
| Smoke Abatement                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13               |
| Caravan Sites                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9                |
| Slaughterhouses                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 846              |
| Knackers Yard                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7                |
| Factories                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14               |
| Foodshops and Stores                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 137              |
| Food Preparation Premises                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 93               |
| Ice Cream                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 31               |
| Bakehouses                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13               |
| Milk and Dairies                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9                |
| Infectious Disease                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18               |
| Swimming Pools                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15               |
| Water Supply                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8                |
| Verminous Premises                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1                |
| Prevention of Damage by Pests Act           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3                |
| Rent Act, 1957                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8                |
| Pet Shops                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2                |
| Shops Act                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32               |
|   |     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> 1973 <hr/> |
| Statutory Notices Served—Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11               |
| Informal Notices Served                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 82               |
| Informal Notices Complied with              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 69               |
| Nuisances abated                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 58               |
| Water Samples                               |     |     |     |     |     |                  |
| (a) Drinking Water                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 190              |
| (b) Swimming Pools                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14               |
| Ice Cream Samples                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10               |
| Complaints Received                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 194              |



**FOOD****Meat Inspection.****CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND  
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART**

|   | Cattle<br>Excl'ing<br>Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep<br>and<br>Lambs | Pigs  | Horses |
|---|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| No. Killed ... ..   | 661                        | 806  | 3375   | 1432                  | 14311 | —      |
| No. Inspected ... ..  | 661                        | 806  | 3375   | 1432                  | 14311 | —      |
| <b>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</b>  |                            |      |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned   | 2                          | 8    | 12     | 6                     | 14    | —      |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned   | 64                         | 234  | 3      | 37                    | 464   | —      |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ... | 9.9                        | 30.0 | 0.4    | 3.0                   | 3.3   | —      |
| <b>Tuberculosis only</b>  |                            |      |        |                       |       |        |
| Whole carcasses condemned   | —                          | 1    | —      | —                     | 10    | —      |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..  | —                          | 5    | —      | —                     | 224   | —      |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..                                | —                          | 0.7  | —      | —                     | 1.6   | —      |
| <b>Cysticercosis</b>  |                            |      |        |                       |       |        |
| Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ..  | 19                         | 9    | —      | —                     | —     | —      |
| Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration   | 19                         | 9    | —      | —                     | —     | —      |
| Generalised and totally condemned ... ..  | —                          | —    | —      | —                     | —     | —      |
|   |                            |      |        |                       |       |        |
|   |                            | Tons | Cwt.   | Qrs.                  | Lbs.  |        |
| Total meat condemned ...  | ...                        | 9    | 2      | 3                     | 14    |        |
| Other Foodstuffs ... ..   | ...                        | 1    | 4      | 2                     | 23    |        |
|   |                            | 10   | 7      | 2                     | 9     |        |

In addition 1,865 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed

## **SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

The following slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1960, but Nos. 2 and 3 were not in operation.

1. 5-7 Scarrots Lane, occupied by C. F. H. Biles.
2. 35-39 Scarrot's Lane, occupied by A. W. Abraham & Co. Ltd.
3. 47 Scarrot's Lane, occupied by J. W. Wooldridge Ltd.
4. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, occupied by N. C. Williams.

846 visits were made to slaughterhouses in connection with meat inspection, licensing, and proposed alterations and improvements.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council during 1960 was 26.

The Council received a grant from the Central Government for excess meat inspection for the year 1960.

### **The Slaughterhouse Act, 1958**

During the year the Council reviewed the existing and probable future requirements of the district for slaughterhouse facilities, and a sub-committee of the Health Committee was authorised to carry out consultations with the National Farmers' Union, the Fatstock Marketing Corporation Ltd., the four slaughterhouse proprietors and other interested bodies and organisations including the other District Councils of the Isle of Wight.

The Fatstock Marketing Corporation was prepared to operate a Public Abattoir as the Council's contractor subject to the closing of existing slaughterhouses, and the National Farmers' Union supported this proposal.

The Council's Slaughterhouses Report was issued on 8th September, 1960 and recommended that the appointed day for the coming into operation of all the Slaughterhouses Construction and Prevention of Cruelty Regulations should be 1st April, 1962. The Report stated that it would be impossible for one of the four slaughterhouses to comply, and two others could comply if the proprietors decided to carry out sufficient works. The owner of the fourth slaughterhouse at Worsley Road informed the Council that he would carry out all works necessary to secure compliance with the Regulations by the appointed day, including extensions of premises so as to cater for all Island slaughtering. In this particular case, extensions of premises or restriction of

throughput, was dealt with in the following paragraph contained in the appendix to the above report:—

“By suitable expansion of premises, or restriction of daily throughput when necessary, ensure that there is adequate space for the efficient performance of meat inspection and suitable and sufficient space for the hanging of meat so as to allow air to circulate freely at all times between the carcasses”.

There was a history of frequent overcrowding of premises due to the fact that the total space available for the slaughter of beasts, calves, sheep and pigs, and for dressing and hanging carcasses, was less than 2,000 square feet. The report also stated that if the owner concerned carried out the necessary works, then facilities would be adequate.

By the end of 1960, informal discussions were continuing between the Senior Public Health Inspector and the slaughterhouse owner and his architects, with a view to enlargement and alteration of premises, and to decide what proposals could reasonably be placed before the Council as Licensing Authority.

### **The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960**

These Regulations came into force on 1st November, 1960 and deal with the sterilization and staining of meat from slaughterhouses and knackers yards. The Regulations deal with unfit meat only and have not resulted in any major changes in the Borough. The meat and other associated trades were kept fully informed as to the requirements of the new Regulations.

### **KNACKERS YARDS**

Seven visits were made to the licensed knackers yard at Park Green Farm, Carisbrooke, occupied by Mr. C. F. H. Biles and compliance with the Council's requirements has always been prompt. The premises have also been visited from time to time by Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.

### **FOOD PREMISES**

The gradual improvement in the operation and equipment of food premises continued during the year. When premises have been brought to a proper standard, frequent routine inspections may not always be possible; there is a very large number of food preparation premises, shops and



stores in the Borough and a limited amount of time is available for this work. It must be emphasised, therefore, that a person carrying on a food business should make himself familiar with all the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations and operate and equip his premises accordingly.

In this connection the Public Health Department will always be pleased to answer queries and give advice.

### ICE CREAM

The following table gives the number of samples taken and their gradings according to the methylene blue test. In addition a sample of water ice and one of water ice and ice cream were taken and the results were satisfactory.

| Samples taken | Grade 1      | Grade 2 | Grade 3        | Grade 4 |
|---------------|--------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| 8             | 6            | 2       | Nil            | Nil     |
|               | Satisfactory |         | Unsatisfactory |         |

No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough and the details above refer to samples taken in the course of distribution in Newport.

The production of ice-cream is now in the hands of comparatively few manufacturers, some of whom distribute throughout the country. It is not considered necessary to take a large number of samples: to avoid duplication it is preferable to take a limited number, representative of the different types supplied by the various manufacturers.

### WATER SUPPLY

Mains water is supplied extensively throughout the Borough by the Isle of Wight Water Board and the supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

The following are the results of samples taken for bacteriological examination:—

| <i>Raw Water</i>         | <i>Satisfactory</i> | <i>Unsatisfactory</i> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 102                      | 79                  | 23                    |
| <i>Chlorinated Water</i> |                     |                       |
| 88                       | 88                  | —                     |

The watershed area for the above supplies is the Bowcombe Valley, an area in which there is a risk of animal and human pollution, and the Council, together with the Isle of Wight Water Board, have for many years been giving consideration to sewerage the area. (The Council decided in 1961 that the matter be deferred indefinitely).

The number of (1) dwellinghouses and (2) population estimated to be served by water mains is (1) 5,400; (2) 19,500.

The number of houses supplied by standpipes is very low, and is less than 25.

## FLOODS

On the morning of the 1st October, 1960, serious flooding occurred in a number of areas along the course of the Upper Medina and the Lukely Stream. A cloudburst following a severe thunderstorm resulted in a rainfall in excess of 3 inches during the period 3 a.m. to 4 a.m.

The land was already saturated and the cloudburst occurred shortly before high water at Newport, so that the streams were unable to drain into the River Medina.

The areas chiefly affected were:—

Castle Street and the lower part of High Street,  
Carisbrooke

Lukely Place, Wilver Road, Caesars Road, Westminster Lane

Mill Street, Crocker Street, Town Gate, Sea Street,  
East Street

Lower Pan and parts of Fairlee Road

It is estimated that there were 180 cases of serious flooding in dwellinghouses and in addition a number of business premises were affected, involving some important food preparation premises and the waterworks at Carisbrooke. A considerable quantity of livestock was drowned, chiefly poultry and pigs.

Water supply from the Bowcombe Wells became discoloured and flood water entered the Carisbrooke Well contaminating the supply. After consultation, it was decided to advise householders to boil water; announcements were made by the B.B.C. and loudspeaker vans toured the town. Heavy chlorination was maintained for several days

to sterilise mains and supply pipes and supplies continued without interruption.

The Council's Public Health Inspectors visited the food premises affected to assess the risk of contamination of food supplies and give advice. The places concerned included a dairy, a cold store, two bakehouses, a brewery, some retail shops and a number of public houses. Messrs. I.W. Creameries' Dairy at Mill Street was seriously affected; for a time no milk could be processed there and milk from Island farms was sent to Portsmouth by tanker. Similarly, milk supply for the Island was obtained already bottled from Portsmouth. When the whole plant had been cleansed, sterilised and subjected to thorough scrutiny for possible sources of contamination, milk processing was resumed.

It was decided that all foodstuffs which had come into contact with flood water other than those in sealed containers should be regarded as unfit for human consumption. The goods were surrendered by traders for destruction and in certain cases were allowed to be consigned outside the Borough for special processing. In the case of canned and bottled foods, traders were advised to cleanse the containers and then rinse in water containing a sterilant. The Cold Store at Coppins Bridge was seriously affected and large quantities of confectionery and fresh meat had to be destroyed.

On the day following the flood, disinfectant was issued to householders to assist in their cleaning up operations. In a limited number of cases, it was possible to provide workmen to help the aged or infirm to restore their houses to order. The houses in Lower Lukely Place were badly affected. These properties had been inspected with a view to making a Clearance Area; they were quite unfit for human habitation and the flooding resulted in distressing circumstances in some cases. The Council therefore decided to advance the making of the Clearance Order by several months and the Order was made in December.

It was a feature of the floods that they receded almost as quickly as they came. In this respect we were fortunate and cleaning up operations could be completed quickly.

The Mayor of Newport immediately opened a fund to assist householders, particularly those who found themselves without adequate insurance against flood damage, and many individuals and business houses in the town gave generously. Financial assistance later became available from central government sources.



## SWIMMING POOLS

| Bacteriological Samples    |     | No. of Samples<br>satisfactory | No. of Samples<br>unsatisfactory |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Seaclose Swimming Pool     | ... | 5                              | —                                |
| Lakeside Swimming Pool     | ... | 4                              | —                                |
| Little Canada Holiday Camp | ... | 5                              | —                                |

There is no prescribed bacteriological standard for swimming pool waters. The examination carried out by the Public Health Laboratory is the same as that for drinking water supplies but different considerations must be applied in the interpretation of results.

It may not be possible to maintain a standard similar to one for drinking water at times of heavy bathing load and equally the efficiency of any treatment should not be judged on a number of samples of a high standard taken from a pool which has not been in use for several hours.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

### West Medina Main Drainage Scheme

This scheme was commenced in the latter half of 1958 and is expected to be in full operation sometime during 1961.

The scheme is primarily one of sewage disposal and is designed to eliminate the existing Gunville and Dodnor disposal plants and concentrate all works of disposal at the Fairlee Station. The Fairlee sewage disposal works are being enlarged by the building of three additional settlement tanks, three detritus channels, one sludge digestion plant and forty sludge drying beds. The Gunville works will be replaced by a pumping station to pump the sewage to an existing manhole in Whitesmith Road from whence it will gravitate partly through existing sewers and partly through a new sewer to a further pumping station sited on the bank of the River Medina in the vicinity of Dodnor House which will in turn elevate the sewage to the Fairlee works. The sewage at present being treated at the Dodnor works will be directed via a new sewer to the pumping station on the bank of the River Medina and then lifted to the Fairlee Works.

### Wootton Sewerage Scheme

This scheme, started about the middle of 1959 and expected to be in full operation in the early part of 1961, is designed to eliminate the present discharge of crude sewage into the Wootton Creek and to provide a sewerage scheme to

cover areas of new development in Wootton, notably, Church Road, Gravel Pit Road, part of Station Road, and part of North Fairlee Road. A new pumping station is being erected in the Wootton Bridge area to pump the sewage to Fairlee Disposal Works for treatment.

### **Westminster Lane Sewer**

A 12in. diameter sewer was laid through Westminster Lane from its junction with Wilver Road to the Mill. The main object of this sewer was to relieve the present overloaded sewer in Caesars Road and to provide a better outfall for the proposed development of Priory Farm Estate.

### **CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE**

The number of cesspools emptied was 107 which is an increase of 5 in the number emptied during the previous year. The cost of emptying was £404 7s. 9d. of which £211 0s. 0d. was recovered by the Council.

### **HOUSING**

Under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme, 3 houses were closed.

The following area was declared to be a Clearance Area:—

| <i>Area</i>        | <i>No. of houses</i> |     |     |     |   |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Lower Lukely Place | ...                  | ... | ... | ... | 6 |

### **CARAVAN SITES**

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, introduced a new licensing system to be operated by local authorities, to regulate the establishment and operation of caravan sites.

Local authorities in the Isle of Wight have co-operated in the past to produce uniform standards of public health requirements for caravan sites and it was necessary to review these in the light of the Model Standards specified by the Minister. Meetings were held between local authority members, officers and representatives of the caravan site operators and the proposals will be submitted to the Council for approval.

In appropriate cases the Council has agreed with applicants on an extension of time within which to grant a site licence in respect of an existing site.

The four principle caravan sites in the Borough are:—

Twenty Acres, Whippingham

Woodside, Wootton

Fernhill, Station Road, Wootton

Dodnor Riverside Orchard

### **RENT ACT, 1957**

Four applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year, compared with five applications in 1959 and twenty-nine in 1958.

### **OFFICES ACT, 1960**

It was announced in Parliament, when the Offices Bill had reached its final stage, that the Government had decided to introduce comprehensive legislation on the health, welfare and safety of persons employed in shops, offices and other premises covered by the Gowers Committee's report. It is intended that a Bill should be introduced before the Offices Act comes into operation at the beginning of 1962.

### **RODENT CONTROL**

Since 1944 the Isle of Wight has been served by a Joint Committee consisting of two members from each of the six District Councils, which was responsible for the destruction of rats and mice.

In 1950, an Agreement was drawn up between the constituent authorities, pursuant to Section 91 of the Local Government Act, 1933, designating the Committee "The Isle of Wight (Rodents Destruction) Joint Committee", and authorising the Committee to exercise their respective powers under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, with the exception of service of notices and certain other matters.

The staff employed by the Committee was one Rodent Officer, one Clerk, eight operatives, and a part time Clerk and Treasurer to the Committee.



Duties carried out were as follows:—

- (1) Rodent Destruction in sewers
- (2) Rodent Destruction on other properties owned by the Council
- (3) Rodent Destruction in private dwellings
- (4) Rodent Destruction on business and agricultural premises
- (5) Rodent Destruction in Ships
- (6) Survey and inspection

Early in 1960, Sandown/Shanklin Urban District Council gave notice of withdrawal from the Joint Committee after 31st March, 1961, and the effect of such notice automatically caused the dissolution of the Joint Committee from 1st April 1961.

It was therefore subsequently decided by all the other District Councils not to enter into a new agreement, but to carry out all functions under Part I of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, individually.

One Rodent Operator will be employed by the Council from 1st April, 1961 under the Senior Public Health Inspector. Treatment will be continued as before, except that all dwellinghouses will be treated free of charge and no contracts for business premises will be entered into. Disinfestation will be carried out on business and agricultural premises at an estimated cost for each disinfestation job.

The service operated direct by the Council should result in the following:—

- (1) The continuance of an efficient disinfestation service.
- (2) A reduction in cost to be borne by the Council.
- (3) Cost of disinfestation at business and agricultural premises based on the actual job and not on an annual contract undertaking to carry out all treatment regardless of degree of infestation.
- (4) Free treatment of all domestic premises instead of some.
- (5) Improved rodent control arising from rodent proofing and the requirements regarding structural alterations being readily known to the Health Department.

## FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

### PART I OF THE ACT.

### INSPECTIONS.

| Premises  | No. on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|---|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..                   | 14              | —           | —               | —                    |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..                     | 128             | 14          | 3               | —                    |
| (iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ... .. | 1               | —           | —               | —                    |
| TOTAL ... ..  | 143             | 14          | 3               | —                    |

### CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

| Particulars                          | Found | Remed'd | Referred to H.M. Inspector | Referred by H.M. Inspector | No. of Prosecutions |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1)            | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| Overcrowding (S.2) ...               | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3)       | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4)         | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)          |       |         |                            |                            |                     |
| (a) Insufficient ...                 | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective          | 4     | 3       | —                          | 1                          | —                   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes           | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| Other offences ... ..                | —     | —       | —                          | —                          | —                   |
| TOTAL ... ..                         | 4     | 3       | —                          | 1                          | —                   |

## PART VIII OF THE ACT.

## OUTWORKERS.

| Nature of work | SECTION 110   |   |   | Section 111                                      |                |              |
|----------------|---|---|---|--|----------------|--------------|
|                | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises | Notices served | Prosecutions |
| Lampshades     | 54  | —   | —   | —  | —              | —            |
| Knitted Wear   | —   | —   | —   | —  | —              | —            |
| TOTAL ...      | 54  | —   | —   | —  | —              | —            |

**FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS,  
1944.**

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Number of samples taken for T.B. during the |     |
| year 1960 ... ..                            | 72  |
| Number of samples found to be positive ...  | Nil |
| Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus |     |
| was isolated ... ..                         | 1   |











